

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Hutchinson Union Building.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for Victims of the Eruption of Mount Nyiragongo

January 25, 2002

On January 17, the people of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffered from an enormous natural disaster. Many homes, shops, roads, and schools were buried, and many lives were lost or disrupted by the flow of molten lava from Mount Nyiragongo. The Congolese people have shown enormous spirit and resilience, already returning to the land where their homes once stood to recover and rebuild.

I commend President Kabila of Congo and President Kagame of Rwanda for working together to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Goma who have been hurt by this volcanic eruption. The United States will help the victims of this disaster, and we have already allocated up to \$3 million for relief efforts. I have sent a team of experts from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the region to assess how this aid can be directed most effectively. At the same time, I have ordered the immediate dispatch of two relief flights carrying blankets, shelter material, and water storage equipment to support the most urgent needs of the Congolese people. The United States will continue to work closely with the international community to help those affected by this disaster to rebuild their town and their lives.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

January 21

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

January 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, WV, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Belle, WV. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand to the White House for a meeting on bilateral and international issues on March 26.

The President signed the recess appointment of Michael J. Bartlett to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President signed the recess appointment of William B. Cowen to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President signed the recess appointment of Cynthia A. Glassman to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President signed the recess appointment of Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President signed the recess appointment of JoAnn Johnson to be a member of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President signed the recess appointment of Deborah Matz to be a member of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration.

January 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with bipartisan House and Senate leaders concerning the upcoming agenda for the year and domestic issues. Then, he met with Members of Congress concerning military issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the House Intelligence Committee who recently visited the Middle East.

January 24

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the Homeland Security Council and also with the National Security Council. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed legislation to name the national cemetery in Saratoga, NY, for the late former Congressman Gerald Solomon.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney and then met with his Cabinet.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner at Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's home with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdullah II of Jordan to Washington, DC, for a meeting and working breakfast on February 1.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the official working visit of President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to Washington, DC, on February 13.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on December 15, 2001, and continuing.

January 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he traveled to Portland, ME.

In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD, where he was joined by Republican congressional leaders for a retreat to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda. In the evening, the group watched the movie "Black Hawk Down."

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Monroe Miles to be Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Ricardo Maduro Joest of Honduras on January 27: Gale Norton, who will lead the delegation; Frank Almaguer; Otto Reich;

William P. "Scott" Bush; Perfecto Rivera; and Jack Vaughan, Jr.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 23

Lance M. Africk,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice Edith Brown Clement, elevated.

Percy Anderson,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Kim McLane Wardlaw, elevated.

Michael M. Baylson,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Robert F. Kelly, retired.

Stanley R. Chesler,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Anne Elise Thompson, retired.

Ronald H. Clark,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, vice Howell Cobb, retired.

Joy Flowers Conti,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Alan N. Bloch, retired.

Legrome D. Davis,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Edmund V. Ludwig, retired.

Leonard E. Davis,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, vice Paul N. Brown, retired.